

FRIDAY

"FOR LACK OF LUBRICATION . . ."

SCRIPTURE;

I Corinthians 13:4-6 (substituting

"courtesy" for "love")

Many families today are grinding along in earsplitting disharmony, for want of a single, ordinary, everyday factor: COURTESY.

Have you ever stopped to think how many unpleasant incidents . . . how many arguments, spats, tensions, "bad days"—could be avoided by just a simple application of courtesy?

There are factors in any home situation which cause temporary anger or dislike, just as there are such situations among strangers we meet. But do we condone discourtesy toward a guest our children may not like? Do you as children grab toys from your friends? Do you teenagers make flippant replies to a guest in your home? As parents—do you grumble and carp in the same way in the presence of company?

The Christian life must always be a refined type of living where we employ the best of every- thing, including a conscious effort to be courteous toward those we love and whom we are most apt to offend. It is learning to bite back a mean retort, ask permission to borrow, put oneself last and be alert to ways of adding to the peace and harmony of our homes. For our homes do belong to each of us . . . and we are equally responsible.

Prayer: Dear Lord, make me aware of a specific way in which I can make my home a better place to live. Give me love for each member of my family—and an understanding and sympathy like Yours, I pray.

AMEN

SATURDAY

"THE HOME IS A HARVEST . . ."

SCRIPTURE:

Ecclesiastes 11:1-6

A kindergarten class was asked to be responsible for beautifying a corner of the new school yard. Each student was given one row to plant. When the big day came for the town to see the new grounds, several of the rows in the area were bare.

One small boy came crying to his teacher. "Nothing came up in my row and I don't have anything to show to my Dad." The teacher said, "Did you plant the seeds I gave you?" He was quiet a moment; then shook his head. "No, I didn't think they would grow. They were so little . . ."

So often, we get nothing out of our family life because we give so little into it. What we have to offer seems so unimportant that we do not bother with it.

There are many people who cannot enjoy their homes. Sometimes it is because conditions are unpleasant . . . but many times it is because we just don't make enough effort to do what we can to make home a nicer or more interesting place to be.

When people come into your home, do they go away remembering you as an important part of it—or are you a silent, non-giving member, sullen and disinterested, leaving that bare place where your laughter or thoughtfulness could have filled the emptiness?

Consider your home an opportunity to practice the art of gracious living and the development of Christian qualities.

Prayer: (Let each member of the family give a "sentence prayer").

AMEN

Daily Family Devotions®

The thought begins in the Bible verse; please take the time to read it first . . .

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2020

"I'M EMBARRASSED TO PRAY!"

SCRIPTURE:

Revelations 3:20; Matthew 18:18-20

So often as we grow out of our early lack of self-consciousness, we begin to guard our confidences, to keep our shortcomings to ourselves and to be slower to admit our failures.

Because of this, sometimes family prayer seems to be only a way of finding out everyone's faults and we are embarrassed to be a part of it.

But family prayer does not necessarily mean that we air all our sins and problems . . . it is a time to pray together for others, a time to thank God for the things which have meant a lot to us that day, to mention a problem at school or business or in the home that everyone can help with.

Praying together as a family is the best way of making God a part of your family. It is like inviting a guest in to a family meal, including a close friend in your discussions.

Let family prayer be a comfortable time, a time of simply talking to God as an unseen guest, of allowing Him to be part of your family as He desires so much to be. Recognize Him as a real, living person in your lives.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, we ask Thy forgiveness for having so often neglected to invite Thee to our table. Lord be with us as we pray; give us understanding and love for each other and for those for whom we do pray. Please become a living person in each of our hearts, we pray.

AMEN

For information regarding these devotions, contact:
Daily Family Devotions

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TUESDAY

“LOYALTY IS THE SHADOW OF LOVE”

SCRIPTURE:

Philippians 4:8, 9

Loyalty is an old fashioned word—we are so used to young people ridiculing their parents, parents berating their children, in-laws bickering about in-laws and everyone set against another. Why is this?

The world is pushing for early independence: “Get free of the family ties—break off on your own; find out who you really are . . .” And so what happens to loyalty? Out the window. “If it’s Dad’s idea, I don’t ever want it. If Mother said it, forget it!” Are we benefiting from this or are we the losers?

How many lonely young people have you noticed on campus—the *really* alone, with no “identity?” Where has the direction and incentive gone? Is it because they don’t belong to any one? No one is important to them? One of the benefits of loyalty is belonging, and caring, and overlooking . . .

Loyalty is not blind stupidity. It does not deny weakness and imperfection. It simply covers it all with loyalty while it improves or grows.

How often do you criticize your parents to others? How often do you complain to others about your children? How often do you ridicule a younger brother, or let out anger against an older sister? When loyalty goes out the window, so does our Christian training and compassion.

Prayer: Dear Lord, teach us to be very careful to guard our loyalty to each other. Belonging is such a privilege and we thank Thee that it is possible with each other and Thee. AMEN

WEDNESDAY

“CHALLENGE TO CHILDREN”

SCRIPTURE:

Deuteronomy 5:16; Ephesians 6:1-4;
Colossians 3:20, 21

“But I can’t love my parents! Why should I obey them?”

In Genesis God does not talk about loving or liking your parents. He talks of loving God and honoring parents.

Honor is that recognition of authority whereby we acknowledge that we do not know everything. It is putting ourselves second, not first. And it is swallowing our pride so that we may begin to learn. The child who does not learn obedience and honor in the home will be tomorrow’s rebel against God and society, too. God knows this. It is one of the primary duties of a home to teach honor and respect.

If there are times when what your parents say disagrees with God, then you owe your allegiance to Him. But honestly, how many times does your parents’ decision disagree with God, and how many times does it simply disagree with you?

There is something very degrading, very destructive about a lack of honor and respect. It seems to take the nobleness out of a person and put him on a level with malcontents and rabble rousers. Godly men are always men of honor, never men of rebellion.

If your life is fully dedicated to your Lord, He will enable you to find a way to honor your parents and still be faithful to Him.

Prayer: Lord God, help me to grow in all the Christian graces; teach me obedience and honor that all I do is a reflection of my love for Thee. Let me be more responsive and loving, I pray.

AMEN

THURSDAY

“THE GARDEN PLOT OF THE FAMILY”

SCRIPTURE:

I Corinthians 12:14-26

English gardens are noted for the brilliance of color and variety of species. Flowers are planted together in profusion, colors mix and blend and create startling and beautiful effects. A family is like a garden, and each person in it is like a plant or flower that adds to the beauty. Each of us has a special kind of talent—of laughter, of love, of forgiveness or helpfulness.

Let us begin to appreciate one another *because* of our differences. Let us put aside jealousy and rivalry . . . looking instead within ourselves for that which we do have to offer—not letting shame or apology mar the one gift perhaps that God has given us.

Let us offer it with love. If we are shy, then learn to laugh at another’s jokes. If aggressive, then learn to help rather than to push. If we are slow, be the patient one—and if quick, learn control.

God has made each of us as we are for some reason. Never try to be what you are not. Add yourself to your own home--just as you are at your very best—and see what the results are!

Prayer: Dear Lord, I thank Thee that Thou hast made so many kinds of people. It would be so dull if we were all alike. God make me more appreciative of those in my family, and may I learn to give the best of what I am to them so that our home may be a place where You can dwell and in which people can see our love for You.

AMEN